

Matthew 3:1-12

Application Questions

1. John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way for Christ. Why was this necessary? Who prepared the way for you to come to know Jesus?
2. John was an oddity. People were curious to see this wild man in the wilderness. But their curiosity brought them into contact with his convicting message. Read verses 2-3 and 7-10 and Luke 3:10-14. What about John's message speaks most directly to you? How does this apply to people today?
3. John told the religionists to "bear fruits worthy of repentance." Three kinds of fruit are mentioned in Scripture: 1) the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23); 2) the fruit of good works (Eph. 2:8-10; James 2:17); 3) the fruit of making disciples (Matt. 28:19-20). Which kind of fruit is easiest for you to produce? Which is most difficult? Read John 15:1-5. What is the only way we can bear fruit?
4. John understood his place compared to Christ. He did not consider himself worthy even to carry Christ's sandals (v. 11). He knew that a person can only receive what is given him or her from heaven (John 3:27). Do you know the ministry the Lord has given you? If so, how are you serving Him?
5. John baptized with water for the purpose of repentance. The issue was forgiveness of sins. Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit and fire for the purpose of empowerment. The issue is being a witness for Him (Acts 1:8). Have you been baptized with water? Please describe this experience. Have you been baptized with the Holy Spirit? Please describe this experience.